

# THE DIAL

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Literary Criticism, Discussion, and Information.

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## THE STAR SYSTEM IN PUBLISHING.

A few years ago complaint was made, in accents more or less querulous, of the fact that the books which had the largest sale and enjoyed the widest popularity in this country were novels by English writers. The American novelist seemed to have no chance at all in the competition with his transatlantic rival. One of the chief arguments by which the campaign for international copyright had been brought to a successful issue was that the American novelist occupied a disadvantageous position in his own country, because publishers would naturally give preference over his work to that of the English novelist who was not in the position to exact a royalty. The plea was a sound one, and there is no doubt that for many years American novelists, as well as American writers in other departments of letters, were put at a considerable disadvantage by the fact that publishers of predatory instincts (and such were not lacking) might seize upon whatever English books they wished, and reproduce them without the leave of either authors or proprietors. As between an already successful English novel upon which no royalty need be paid, and an American manuscript which might or might not make a successful book and for which the author would certainly demand compensation, the balance of probable profit turned toward the side of piracy, and the American writer who had not already conquered his public found it difficult to obtain a hearing. At last, however, the law was passed which accorded the bare measure of justice (or something less than that) to the English author, and placed the American author in a position to compete with him without being handicapped from the start.

In some respects the working of the law proved disappointing. The cheap "libraries," it is true, found their opportunities restricted, and many of them disappeared altogether from the market. But the anticipated "boom" in American literature was slow in appearing. English books that were worth reading, as well as those that were not, seemed to find their way

into our houses almost as readily as before; although it was no longer possible to purchase the latest production of Mr. Black or Mr. Hardy for a small fraction of a dollar. Such books now came to us in respectable garb, and were sold at a fair price. The point is that they continued to come and to be sold in large numbers. Even our popular magazines continued their practice of contracting for the serial rights in works of English fiction, instead of offering that encouragement to home industry about which American novelists had raised such a clamor. There continued to be years in which nearly every one of our story magazines had for its principal feature the novel of some English writer, offered to readers upon the instalment plan. There were the stories of Mr. Kipling, for example, and the romances of Robert Louis Stevenson, with which no American writer of fiction could hope to compete. Then there was the series of highly successful individual books, beginning with "Robert Elsmere" and coming down in rapid succession to "Trilby" and "The Christian." The dear public wanted these books, even if it had to pay roundly for them; and those who had expected international copyright to effect a revolution in popular taste found that conditions remained very much as they had been before. These selfish grounds were not, of course, those upon which the serious advocates of that act of plain international duty rested their case, but they no doubt had considerable influence in securing its adoption.

The conditions of a few years ago seem, however, to have become completely changed of late, and American fiction seems at last to have come to its own. The most striking fact in the publishing business of the past year is that of the extraordinary success of certain novels by American writers. Five such novels have won the public favor to such an extent that their sale has broken nearly all recent records, that to find its match, in the case of American fiction at least, we must go back to the history of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." That this success has been in all cases deserved, we are by no means willing to admit. Of the five novels in question, one is a homely character-study having for its passport to favor a plentiful supply of mother-wit rather than an effective plot. The other four are historical romances. One of these four, the work of a woman, deserves very high praise as representing the best type of historical fiction. Two of the others are at least admirable narratives, and present inter-

esting phases of our colonial history with remarkable sympathy, industrious grasp of detail, and vivid dramatic force. The fourth is an extremely mediocre example of the class of work to which it belongs, common in both style and treatment, not noticeably better or worse than a score of other books of its sort published during the twelvemonth, and chiefly interesting as an illustration of what can be done for a poor book by shrewd and persistent advertising. On the whole, our cause for satisfaction in the success of these five novels is not so great as those who are interested in them would have us believe, and the record of their sales is a brilliant episode in the history of American bookselling rather than in the history of American literature.

Whether the publishing trade is really to be congratulated upon such a series of popular successes as this, is open to serious doubt. In one case, at least, the profits accruing from a sale of hundreds of thousands of copies could not avail to save a great and long-established house from serious business embarrassments. Such enormous sales of single books, of which the merit, even if great, is not likely to be fairly proportional to the sales, does not seem to us to betoken an altogether healthy condition of the publishing trade. Publishers themselves know well enough that their success in the long run depends, not upon the fortunate acquisition of an occasional book that enjoys a sky-rocket career, but upon the possession of a substantial list of works of permanent value, works that occupy a standard place in literature and may be depended upon to provide a steady income for many years. The publisher who has a list of this sort is, of course, glad enough to get hold of an exceptionally successful novel from time to time; such a book represents to him so much clear gain, and he would not be human did he fail to keep an intelligent watch for productions of this sort. But if he allows his head to be turned by visions of this kind of luck, if he despises the more modest but safer ventures, if he bends his energies toward achieving an abnormal sale for a few books instead of a normal sale for many, he is likely to come to grief. His real interests lie in the possession of many claims to public esteem rather than in the making of a few successful appeals to popular caprice.

It seems to us that there is an evident analogy between the ideal of publishing that aims to push a few books into successful acceptance and the ideal of theatrical or operatic manage-

ment which depends almost exclusively upon the popularity of a few artists. The star system in stage affairs has long been understood by all competent observers as being extremely demoralizing to the true interests of art. The recent history of our grand opera has brought this principle home to many who had not realized it before. A few singers and a few operas become established in public favor, and the short-sighted policy of the management, relying upon this fact, gathers for the time a rich harvest. But presently the public wearies of its favorites, and, never having been educated to the point of healthy musical culture which can find interest and inspiration in a great variety of works, never having been made to feel that the works themselves and not the manner of their performance should be its chief concern, now deserts the opera-house, in spite of all the allurements of new voices and new productions. The management then complains that audiences have no taste for a varied repertoire, that the production of untried compositions spells financial disaster. Of course it does: the public should have been prepared for these compositions long before; they should have been produced repeatedly, even at some temporary loss, at the time when the public was most clamorous for the sensations of the hour. The star system in publishing brings about very similar results. Many worthy books are neglected in order that a few may be kept well to the front. When the caprice is past, when the serried ranks of worn copies of "Trilby" gather dust upon the shelves of the public library, when the unsold copies in the hands of the publisher and bookseller become "plugs," the publisher should then know better than to complain because his other books do not sell. The fact often is that he has not tried to sell them, that he has left them unadvertised and uncared-for, that they have now lost their chance because his "enterprise" has seen fit to promote the sale of a few books at the expense of all the rest. The well-advised publisher, in our opinion, is the one who recognizes the evils of the star system, and is not misled by its promise of present temporary gain. He is the publisher who secures for his list as many books of lasting value as he can. And he is the publisher who cares for the interest of all of his books, because he understands that the permanent success of his business depends upon the acceptability of his total output rather than upon the vogue of a few books taken here and there from his catalogue.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### CHICAGO AND LONDON AS VIEW-POINTS OF LITERATURE.

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

On the twentieth birthday of THE DIAL, may I, as a Transatlantic reader, be permitted to offer my humble congratulations on the successful conduct of the paper for so many years, and my best wishes for a future as honorable as its past?

THE DIAL, to one who lives on this side of the water, has a twofold interest and importance. It keeps him acquainted with the course and current of American literature, and with the opinions and thoughts of those who lead the country. It also enables him to understand how current English literature is regarded by the American critic. This is still more important when the judgment of the critic is influenced, as sometimes happens, by a difference in the point of view — a difference which the Englishman sometimes finds it hard to understand. The American point of view, in literature as in politics, must be apprehended, and it is too little understood. Perhaps the same thing might be said on the other side.

The criticism of THE DIAL on our own writers should be, above all, valuable to ourselves as being absolutely free from personal considerations. There is no suspicion in its columns of log-rolling, of private friendships, of private animosities, such as disfigure too much of our criticism upon ourselves.

THE DIAL, again, illustrates the very important fact that "local" or "national" literature is one thing, and that "English" or "Anglo-Saxon" literature is another. In other words, the paper enables us to realize that there exist, side by side, two distinct literatures: that of America and that of Great Britain. Practically, each is sufficient for its own people; each contains all that is wanted in art, science, philosophy, history, divinity, and every other branch. But there is also a literature which belongs to the whole of the English-speaking race — I call it "English" or "Anglo-Saxon" on account of the language, but I would rather call it Anglo-Celtic on account of the two races which most profoundly influence this literature. It is the supreme prize of the modern writer — a prize rarely achieved — to speak to the whole of the English-speaking peoples, whether of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, or India. Never before in the history of the world has a writer had such a possible audience; never before has his possible influence been so deep, so wide, so far-reaching.

May we not consider it an inestimable advantage that this part — the nobler part — of our literature should be drawn from two sources so widely apart, as regards that point of view, as Chicago and London?

WALTER BESANT.

Hampstead, London, May 1, 1900.

### HONEY OR VINEGAR IN BOOK REVIEWS.

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

An old-fashioned acquaintance of mine complains that reading a modern Review leaves him with an unpleasant sensation as of having dined wholly off honey. The book-reviewer of to-day is altogether too lenient, too considerate, too apologetic, too blandly deferential a creature to suit this reader's robust taste. He laments the decay of that fine old spirit of ferocity which ani-



mated criticism in the palmy days when Jeffrey and his merry men used to fling themselves on an aspiring "Laker" or "Cockney" with the joy of an Iroquois scalping his victim, and the fluency in insult of the late Mr. Brann. The most readable thing in the world, he thinks, is a merciless "roast" of a new book — something in the way of Macaulay's flagellations of Croker and Robert Montgomery. Holding these opinions, this charitable soul was naturally much gratified the other day when a well-known critic proclaimed in print the present crying need of a Review conducted on the old savage Edinburgh lines. The article in which this opinion is aired smells, it is fair to say, suspiciously of paradox. But, at all events, what the writer of it appears to think is wanted in these degenerate days of critical urbanity and super-abundant human kindness is a Review whose amiable speciality it shall be to damn and disparage, to thwart the "booms" of publishers, to clip the wings of aspiring young authors, to knock newborn reputations promptly on the head, and, in fine, to play in the world of current letters a part not unlike that played in politics by Marat's *L'Ami du Peuple*.

Now I, for one, should be very sorry to see a recrudescence in criticism of the spirit of "Maga," which was so largely a spirit of malice, not to say blackguardism, exercised by a parcel of spiteful scribblers against better men than themselves. An ill-natured reviewer who takes pleasure in saying things likely to wound the feelings and cloud the prospects of his author, seems to me about as respectable a person as the scamp who strews tacks on a cycle path. But deprecating a return to the old gall-and-wormwood style of criticism does not estop one from regretting a tendency in the modern Review to eschew fault-finding altogether and become a mere honey-pot. It can hardly be denied, I think, that the criticism of the modern reviewer is mostly of a sort that does more credit to his heart than his head. His eagerness to praise constantly impels him to over-praise — to lavish upon mediocrity terms that should be reserved for genius. I have often thought that the sanguine American lady who was gently taken to task by Matthew Arnold for asserting that excellence is "common and abundant" must have been a great reader of Reviews. The habit would easily account for her cheerful delusion.

Perhaps, after all, a slight infusion into the honeyed sweetness of the new Review of the spice and vinegar of the old might not be unsalutary.

W. R. K.

Pittsfield, Mass., May 10, 1900.

#### DEATH OF A JAPANESE SCHOLAR AND EDUCATOR.

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

The recent death of Dr. Toyama, President of the Imperial University at Tokyo, is an event worthy of being chronicled in an American journal in view of his residence and education in the United States, as well as by reason of his distinguished position in literature, education, and public life in Japan. His study of English, in which he later became so proficient, was begun at the early age of thirteen in his native land. He studied abroad twice: first in the sixties, when he was sent to London, and was the first, and at that time the only, Japanese student in that great metropolis; and second, in the seventies, when he pursued courses of study in Ann Arbor (Mich.) High School, graduating later from the University of Michigan. Returning to Japan, he entered upon a long service in the Imperial

University, Tokyo, of which he finally became President. In 1898 he served as Minister of Education for a few months in Marquis Ito's short-lived Cabinet; and he was also a prominent member of the House of Peers, where he was known as a forcible and brilliant debater.

It is, however, to his literary work that most general interest attaches. He is said by a leading Japanese journal to deserve very great credit for being "the first to recognize the advantages which the Japanese poet might derive from a study of European models"; and, in collaboration with others, he developed the *Shintaisisho*, or "Poetry of New Form," which is properly said to mark "an epoch in the history of poetry in Japan." This new style of poetry ignores the old short suggestive odes, and seeks to adapt the long poem to modern conditions. Dr. Toyama himself brought out a poem on the great earthquake of 1885, "which has not only great merit in itself, but occupies a unique position in Japanese literature." This new school of poetry manifested its aspirations not only in original poems, but in translations from English verse. The latter include "The Mariners of England," "Charge of the Light Brigade," Gray's "Elegy," Longfellow's "Psalm of Life," and four extracts from Shakespeare. Mr. Aston, in his "History of Japanese Literature," thus characterizes the style of this new school: "Toyama and his colleagues, finding the ancient classical language unequal to the expression of the new ideas [Western], and largely unintelligible to a modern public, frankly adopted the ordinary written language of the day, which had hitherto been only used for popular poetry of the humblest pretensions. In their choice of themes, in the length of their poems, and in the general tone of thought, the influence of European models is plainly traceable."

Regarding the unification of the written and spoken languages of Japan — a measure so important to the future of that country — a recent number of that influential newspaper, the "Japan Mail," says: "It is really preposterous that a country should have two languages, one for writing and the other for speaking. The question bears incidentally on the position of women in Japan, for since the language used by men when discussing any subject outside the daily routine approximates to that of books and newspapers, it cannot be understood by a woman unless she has received an extraordinary education, and the result is that intellectual intercourse between the sexes becomes impossible." The influence of Dr. Toyama on this and other measures of vital moment to Japanese progress and culture renders his loss a conspicuous one.

ERNEST W. CLEMENT.

Tokyo, April 15, 1900.

#### THE ABSORPTION OF LITERATURE.

Great Master, whom disciples greet with awe,  
Throughout the toiling day your art is schooled  
To urge that man may govern life with law,  
And philosophic empires may be ruled:  
At dusk your eyes are strenuous no more;  
Then unafraid I come; most lovingly  
I lay my head upon your arm; therefore,  
Knowing right well how clearly I shall see,  
Yearnings you picture far more precious, deep  
As fill the state foreknown of youth when led  
To gather First and Last within its sweep  
And with transcendence sweeten death's dear droad.  
This proud faith then my happiness assures:  
Till death your thoughts are mine, and mine are yours.

F. L. THOMPSON.



## The New Books.

### IN NORTHWESTERN HUNTING GROUNDS.\*

A book from the pen of that keen Nimrod, mountaineer, sportsman-naturalist, and very agreeable writer, Mr. W. A. Baillie-Grohman, is always sure of a welcome as broad as the section of the reading public its *genre* appeals to. We are not ourselves, we admit, thoroughly in sympathy with the instinct which impels men like Mr. Grohman and our strenuous Colonel Roosevelt to devote their allotment of leisure largely to hunting down and slaying the "native burghers" of forest and plain. But there is this to be said for Mr. Grohman and his kind: that he is no less devoted to the preservation than the killing of big game (paradoxical as it may seem), and that if we are to have any big game at all in this country worth mentioning twenty-five years hence it will be largely due to the efforts of the "gentleman sportsman" to prevent its extinction at the hands of the game-butcher, through game laws scientifically framed and properly enforced. Mr. Grohman has some wise words to say on this slighted theme of American game preservation which we commend to the special attention of those interested.

Mr. Grohman's latest production, "Fifteen Years' Sport and Life in Western America and British Columbia," is of rather miscellaneous content, embracing matter of interest not only to the amateur of wild life and the chase generally, but also to those in quest of practical information from an original source as to the conditions and outlook that confront the pioneering settler or the investor in the raw Northwest—Mr. Grohman's knowledge in this order being derived from some stirring and picturesque, if not wholly satisfactory, experiences in the eighties as a land concessionnaire in the then virgin Kootenay region of British Columbia. The account of the author's pioneering in Kootenay occupies about a quarter of the volume, and forms a lively and rather instructive off-hand picture of frontier life, well seasoned with stories stirring or humorous, of which Mr. Grohman has an unending stock. To this section of the volume Mrs. Grohman

adds her mite in the shape of an amusing chapter on Chinese servants. Certain views of one of these pig-tailed domestics, developed in the course of discussions with "Missus Gloman" on questions more difficult even than those of frontier housekeeping, are worth quoting.

"Why [said the author] do you take chickens and wine and cakes to the graves of your uncles, and then bring them back to Chinatown and eat them yourself? You must know, as you eat them yourself, the things can be of no good to your dead relations." "You see," replied he quickly, taking up a cup, and holding it in front of a lamp so that a sharp shadow was thrown on the white tablecloth. "You see that," pointing to the shadow, "dead men all the same that, he eat all the same that (shadow) of food and wine, I this," flicking the cup with his finger; "if I no get all the same this, me die pretty soon quick." . . . "Pull down the other blind, the sun is coming in." "This morning I pull down one blind, sun look in that window, now he look in this window, bye and bye he look in another window, and then white man say sun he no walkee; he walkee all the time; white man heap liar."

Mr. Grohman's opening chapters are in his more familiar vein, and treat for the most part of sporting lore and adventure pure and simple, under such captions as Travelling in the Western Hunting Grounds; the Slaughter of Big Game and the Game Laws of America; the Wapiti, its Antlers and its Chase (with illustrations taken from the now rare catalogue of the great American Trophy Show of 1887); the Antelope Goat of Pacific Slope Mountains; the Moose, Caribou, and Deer of the Pacific Slope; the Bears and the Bison of North America; the Salmon of the Pacific Coast. A special chapter is devoted to a quasi-scientific discussion of the seal and other fur-bearing animals of the Pacific Coast, and of the international difficulties that have from time to time grown out of the pelt-hunting industry on the northwest coast. As to the Alaskan purchase, Mr. Grohman observes:

"The million and a half sterling paid for Alaska in 1867 secured to the United States the last remaining retreat of the pelt-bearing *fera naturae* on the globe. To pay for a territory nine times the size of England and Wales what we would expend upon two first-class ironclads, was not a bad bargain. A fraction less than a penny per acre permits a good many of them to consist of barren rocks or swamps, without making it a losing transaction. And when we hear that on two of its tiny islands, sixty square miles in extent—the famous Prybiloffs—Nature has created and is maintaining a unique mine of untold wealth, that has already more than repaid the Government dollar for dollar the millions paid to Russia, the true character of astute Brother Jonathan's last 'Conquest by the Almighty Dollar' begins to dawn upon one. If we add the further trifling detail that on another tiny isle there is a gold mine

\*FIFTEEN YEARS' SPORT AND LIFE in the Hunting Grounds of Western America and British Columbia. By W. A. Baillie-Grohman; with a chapter by Mrs. Baillie-Grohman. Illustrated. New York: Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons.

that has already produced more gold than the whole country cost, our admiration for America's commercial wisdom is only increased. . . . What a profitable investment the purchase of Alaska has proved to be for the United States is shown by the fact that in the twenty-one years (1870-90) the rent and taxes of the Prybiloffs amounted to £1,250,000 and the duties on the returning dressed skins" (almost the entire Prybiloff catch goes to England for dressing, and about half of it returns to this country and is heavily taxed on entry), "amounting to over one million sterling, brought the total up to £2,250,000. Verily a famous purchase!"

After giving an interesting sketch of the history of the pelt-hunting industry in Alaska, including a description of the Prybiloff rookeries (one is tempted to ask, with David Copperfield's aunt, "Why rookery?") during the breeding season, Mr. Grohman goes on to describe and discuss pelagic sealing, and to give his opinion touching certain vexed questions which the industry has given rise to. That pelagic or open-sea sealing is, as American authorities contend, infinitely more wasteful than the leisurely abattoir-like methods of killing pursued at the rookeries, where only animals of suitable age and sex are taken, he has no manner of doubt; and the facts he adduces certainly seem more than sufficient to bear out his conclusion. The waste of pelagic sealing is the necessary result of haste, of poor marksmanship\* (a large percentage of wounded animals escaping capture to die a lingering death later on), and of conditions that prevent deliberate and accurate selection of victims—many breeding females being uselessly and wastefully slaughtered. To the plea that defends pelagic sealing as being the more "sportsman-like" method, Mr. Grohman replies with a sportsman's indignation and a reasonable man's disdain:

"One plea advanced by those blindly favoring the British case, which otherwise is such a preëminently sound and just one, is particularly unfortunate. When condemning the land killing as conducted on the rookeries as 'rank butchery,' as 'a revolting destruction of animal life,' as cruel as it is unsportsmanlike, 'slaughter of animals without giving them a chance for their lives,' etc., one can only shake one's head in indignation at such unreasonable special pleading. Even some of those voicing their authoritative opinions in the Blue Book pander, one regrets to see, to this inhuman pleading. Par. 610 says: 'The accusation of butchery laid against those who take the seals on shore cannot be brought against this pelagic method of killing the seal, which is really hunting' (save the mark!) 'as distinguished from slaughter, and in which the animal has what may be described as a fair sporting chance for its

life.' Was ever more mischievous nonsense written? Does it not stand to reason that the method which eliminates all chances of (1) a lingering death from wounds, (2) that spares all females, (3) that prevents all avoidable waste of life, (4) that kills in a merciful way only those animals that are best suited for the uses to which their pelt is put and that can best be spared in the economy of seal life, is a better and more humane method than one which fails to regard any one of these important considerations? One might just as well argue that, instead of putting our cattle to a speedy and painless death, we should turn them loose in a deep lake and shoot them or wound them from unsteady boats, letting those that are not killed instantly die a slow death and sink out of sight. There is no more reason for depriving a steer of a 'fair sporting chance for its life' than a bachelor seal when its skin is at its best."

The preservation of the fur seal is, Mr. Grohman thinks, more feasible than that of any other wild animal.

"With a birth-rate of about 143,000, as estimated by the most recent and entirely trustworthy examination by Professors D'Arcy Thompson for the British and Starr Jordan for the United States Government, it is surely possible to insure the perpetuation of the race; while £100,000 would, it is said, amply indemnify the Canadians for completely ceasing pelagic sealing."

It will be gratifying to sportsmen to know that so high an authority as Mr. Grohman does not at all agree with those writers who reach the mournful conclusion that American hunting grounds are, in respect of big game, virtually "shot out." Prince Wied, writing sixty-five years ago, deplored the disappearance of bighorn and wapiti, while a more recent visitor, Lord Dunraven (he of "concealed ballast" memory, we suppose) writes: "An Englishman going to the States or to British American territory for big game shooting, and for nothing else, is sure nowadays to be disappointed." Says Mr. Grohman:

"Both were right so far as the country they passed through was concerned, both were wrong in their generalizations. There are even to-day countries, the size of small kingdoms, in British North America into which no hunting party ever penetrated, and where the frypan's capacity of a few prospectors has, so far, measured the destruction of game; countries where moose, caribou, and antelope-goat are still unfamiliar with the sight of white-skinned human beings. . . . I enjoyed unrivalled sport in years subsequent to the period when the author of the 'Great Divide' expressed such a pessimistic view, and that concerning localities not a hundred miles west of the country through which he passed."

Mr. Grohman shows much appreciation of the humor, as well as the humors, of the Far West, especially of the "tall stories" characteristic of that land where, proverbially, "talk is cheap and lies are worth nothing." One of the "tallest" of the stories, taken from a

\* An entry in the log-book of the sealer "Angel Dolly" reads: "Issued to-day to my boats 300 rounds of ammunition; all expended, and got one sealakin."

Western newspaper, may be subjoined as a close to our quotations.

"A wonderful fish is becoming numerous in Goose Lake. It is called by some the 'greenback' fish, for it is certainly an inflationist. It has the power to fill itself with air until it becomes very much like a round ball. Of evenings about sundown they may be seen playing on the surface of the water. They will swell up by taking in the air, and the wind will blow them over the lake. They reflect all the colors of the rainbow, and when sporting over the lake are a grand sight. A hunter several weeks ago saw a crane swallow one of these fish when in its normal condition, but before the crane had got fifty feet above the lake the fish had taken in enough air to explode the crane, which, at the sound of a report like that of a gun, flew all to atoms, and the fish came lightly down on the water, no worse off for the short ride in the air. The fish is a great curiosity, never having been found, I believe, in other waters."

What a fine item that would have made for Doctor Goldsmith!\*

Mr. Grohman qualifies the title of his book by stating in the preface that he did not live for fifteen consecutive years on the Pacific Slope. He spent the greater part of each of fifteen years there, his first four or five visits being devoted exclusively to big game shooting. The natural grandeur and ample promise of the magnificent domain to the west of the Rockies are glowingly and picturesquely described, for, it is fair to say, Mr. Grohman views nature with the eye of a lover and an artist, and not merely with that of a hunter, and as an arena for the sportsman. In point of literary quality this latest production of Mr. Grohman's is hardly up to the level of one or two of its predecessors, the delightful "Sport of the Alps" for example; but in spite of its occasional lapses of style it is in the main crisply and pleasantly written, and is packed with information on points as to which the author is a recognized authority. The book is handsomely made and copiously illustrated. The frontispiece, a fine photo-process plate, shows the author seated contemplatively in his study at Schloss-Matzen, surrounded by trophies of his gun, notably the superb wapiti head familiar to readers of English and Continental illustrated sporting journals. While this noble head is doubtless a source of much pride to Mr. Grohman, it should also, we should say, form something of a thorn in his conscience.

E. G. J.

\* "In his 'Animated Nature' he relates with faith and perfect gravity all the most absurd lies which he could find in books of travels about gigantic Patagonians, monkeys that preach sermons, nightingales that repeat long conversations. 'If he can tell a horse from a cow,' said Johnson, 'that is the extent of his knowledge of zoology.'"—Macaulay.

### THREE GREAT CHAMPIONS OF FREEDOM.\*

With the publication of the three volumes telling of the lives of Chase, Sumner, and Adams, the collection of short biographies called the "American Statesmen Series" is complete. A carefully prepared index-volume is promised, which will make the thirty-one distinct books a connected whole, and will vastly enhance their value to the student of American history, who has already learned to esteem them of much importance in a consideration of the varied political problems which have attended the development of the United States.

The three men studied in the volumes now at hand have many traits in common. Each was an individual of marked personality, firm in conviction and fearless in action. Each one, despite many reasons which might have persuaded to the contrary decision, broke away from old political associations and joined the forces of the "Conscience" voters of the North, when the slavery question was the burning one of the day. And when the "irrepressible conflict" finally came, each one contributed a most important part to the history of his country.

The place of Mr. Chase is fairly shown by Professor Hart in these words:

"At first an obscure member of a little group of anti-slavery politicians, he came to something like headship of that party in the campaign of 1848. He was the first efficient anti-slavery senator, and in his management of the opposition to the Kansas-Nebraska Bill showed great qualities as a parliamentary leader. He came forward as secretary of the treasury in the midst of chaos, and made suggestions and developed financial ideas which may have been imperfect, but which were so clear and definite that Congress was compelled to adopt most of them. Almost single-handed, he began the attack upon the sixteen hundred state banks, which were the entrenched fortresses of a vicious system, and compelled both bankers and congressmen to accept a better scheme. More than any other man, he seized upon the conditions of the Civil War as leading straight to the legal and political freedom of the negro, and to him more than to anyone else is due that system of negro suffrage which he advocated, not because he thought it was ideal, but because he saw no half-way place in giving to the negro his long-usurped rights. In his latest years he well used his opportunity to stand for the principle of limited powers, as against the conception of a sovereign legislature, both in the State and in the Union."

The quotation indicates the importance of the part played by Mr. Chase, and also shows

\* SALMON P. CHASE, by Albert Bushnell Hart. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, by Charles Francis Adams. CHARLES SUMNER, by Moorfield Storey. (American Statesmen Series.) Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.



the three well-defined periods of his life: that of the leadership of anti-slavery forces in the West, that of the secretaryship of the Treasury, and that of the judgeship. Mr. Hart has followed these lines of division, half the volume being taken with the first period up to the time of Mr. Lincoln's election. The situation in the Middle West is shown to have been a very interesting one, and the forces at work, especially in Ohio, were many, all tending strongly to influence a man of Mr. Chase's personality to join hands with the friends of the slave. The chapters devoted to cabinet membership, including the straining of relations with the President, and to the problems of Reconstruction as they came before the Supreme Court, are full of important suggestions; but the early parts of the narration perhaps deserve more notice, because they deal with less familiar themes. The faults of Mr. Chase are clearly set forth, notably those which cropped out in connection with his hopes for the presidency. The illumination of history through biography has been Mr. Hart's evident purpose, rather than the setting forth of personal details, which might have made the volume easier reading, but at the sacrifice of a prevailing method of historical writing.

By far the most interesting narrative of the three under consideration is that concerning Charles Francis Adams. It does not cover so large a period as that of the other two statesmen, Chase and Sumner. One paragraph sums up this period thus:

"The active public life of Mr. Adams practically ended, as he had surmised it might, with the Geneva arbitration. It had extended over just thirteen years. It covered the whole period of the Civil War, including the process of Reconstruction; and he was, in all respects, singularly happy in the share of the work allotted to him. It was important; it was work for which he was by nature peculiarly adapted; it was done amid congenial surroundings; it was complete; and it was successful. A public man could ask for nothing more. The contentions in which he was engaged were of surpassing magnitude, and involved momentous consequences; they extended through a long period of time; they were carried on wholly with foreign nations; and in their conduct he came in collision with some of the foremost of European public men. Yet his success was as final as it was complete and unquestioned. When he landed in New York on November 13, 1872, he had a right to exclaim, as he did, 'Io Triumphe!' for every issue between Great Britain and the United States growing out of the great Civil War was either definitely settled, or was in course of early settlement. His work was done; and done thoroughly."

The issues with whose discussion Mr. Adams was intimately associated were those connected with the treatment accorded to Confederate

representatives in England, the Trent Affair, General Butler's famous Order at New Orleans, the Cotton Famine, the question of recognition of the Confederacy, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Alabama case and the Laird Rams, and the Geneva Award; some attention being paid also to the attitude of France toward the diplomatic questions of the day. It is extremely interesting and suggestive to look at these matters from the point of view of one who was in a foreign country at the time, charged with the welfare of his native land, and yet having for his guidance neither a clear knowledge of affairs at home, nor a definite understanding of the workings of the mind of the Secretary of State. Oftentimes, in the absence of information, the ambassador of the United States had to grope blindly. It was very fortunate for the country that Mr. Adams was a man of prudence and good sense, else some rash step might have precipitated the trouble which above all it was his particular duty at that time to prevent. The slowness of means of communication very probably saved the Union from serious difficulty with England; and no one can read this short story of Mr. Adams's experience during the Civil War without understanding the great change which has necessarily come over diplomacy since the laying of the Atlantic cable and the introduction of other improvements in the methods of speedy communication. The corrective value of the account of the work of Mr. Adams in connection with an examination of Mr. Seward's career as Secretary of State will be readily appreciated by the reader of this little book; and all will wish for a speedy publication of the promised larger work, which is to include the various letters and papers of Mr. Adams. In a study of father by son, especially of an Adams by an Adams, a tendency to overestimation might be expected; but such a charge cannot lie against this book. The treatment is candid and fair, and the general impression made upon the reader is that this will rank among the best of the monographs contained in the "American Statesmen Series." If there was to be criticism of the style employed, it might attach to the constant use of illustrations from card-playing, which are so numerous as to be almost offensive.

Two brief paragraphs from the life of Charles Sumner will indicate the ideas of the author regarding the place of the third of the three friends of freedom.

"Charles Sumner was a great man in his absolute fidelity to principle, his clear perception of what his



country needed, his unflinching courage, his perfect sincerity, his persistent devotion to duty, his indifference to selfish considerations, his high scorn of anything petty or mean. He was essentially simple to the end, brave, kind, and pure. In his prime he was a very eloquent speaker, and his unbending adherence to the highest morality gave him insight and power in dealing with great questions and a strong hold upon the moral forces of the country. . . . From the time he entered public life till he died, he was a strong force constantly working for righteousness. He had absolute faith in the principles of free government as laid down in the Declaration of Independence, and he gave his life to secure their practical recognition. They were not to him glittering generalities, but ultimate, practical truths, and in this faith Lincoln and Sumner were one. To Sumner more than to any single man, except possibly Lincoln, the colored race owes its emancipation and such measure of equal rights as it now enjoys. To Sumner more than to any single man the whole country owes the prevention of war with England and France when such a war would have meant the disruption of the Union."

Mr. Sumner entered the Senate in 1851, and soon indicated very clearly the position he was to take in the impending crisis. His illness as a result of the Brooks assault took him abroad, and the great part of his life-work was done after he returned to his seat in the Senate in December, 1859. Mr. Storey claims for him an influence in connection with the Trent affair which is not recognized at all by Mr. Adams,—and, indeed, taking these three books together, one finds a number of cases where the relative claims of Chase and Sumner, or Sumner and Adams, seem to overlap, and to need sifting by comparative study. But the efforts in behalf of the negro do not need denial or limitation. What Mr. Sumner accomplished may be indicated by quotation from his letter to the Duchess of Argyle, dated July 4, 1864.

"Congress will disperse to-day, having done several good things: (1) all fugitive slave acts have been repealed; (2) all acts sustaining the traffic in slaves on the coast from one domestic port to another have been repealed, so that now there is no support of slavery in our statute-book; (3) the railroads here in Washington have been required to admit colored persons into their carriages; (4) greatest of all in practical importance, the rule of evidence excluding colored testimony in the United States courts has been abolished. All these measures are now the law of the land. They were all introduced and pressed by myself."

Mr. Sumner took many positions, in his later life, which angered his former friends and led to estrangements from those with whom he had often worked in harmony. It is possible that Mr. Storey has unduly emphasized the importance of his hero in these connections. But the many intricate and perplexing problems of Reconstruction days are discussed with sustained interest, so that this volume will be

used frequently by students who desire to get information and suggestion about them.

In fine, here are three studies of three great Americans who had much to do with making the history of their country in a time of grave national peril. The volumes meet a positive want. There have been biographies of Chase and Sumner, but they were written some time ago, and were without that fine discrimination which is marked in these books, which are written according to later historical methods, and will be respected because in them mere eulogy gives place to sober and thoughtful consideration of great national problems reflected in the lives of a nation's great men.

FRANCIS WAYLAND SHEPARDSON.

#### ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES AND MEN.\*

To the American, still floating in a heterogeneous and various national life devoid of great centres of interest and incapable of habitual concert of action with many of his fellows, the compactness and solidarity of the national life of England is a constant wonder. An aristocratic government conspires with geographical conditions to make this possible, with concomitant age and settled institutions; but the surprise with which the American realizes the almost literal truth that everyone in England worth knowing knows everyone else worth knowing, is never ceasing, and not without a tinge of envy.

Such books as these under consideration show how great a part the two ancient English universities play in this unification of men and ideas. Mr. J. Willis Clark, registry of the University of Cambridge, in a series of brief biographies commemorates ten men of his university with a complete understanding of and sympathy with their lives and aims which is in itself proof of the intimacy referred to. These articles include accounts of William Whewell, master of Trinity; Connop Thirlwall, bishop of St. David's; Richard Monckton Milnes (Lord Houghton); Edward Henry Palmer, professor of Arabic in Cambridge, most cruelly murdered in the Arabian desert by Bedouins; Francis Maitland Balfour, first professor of animal morphology at Cambridge, lost in an

\*OLD FRIENDS AT CAMBRIDGE AND ELSEWHERE. By J. Willis Clark, M.A. New York: The Macmillan Co.

FIVE GREAT OXFORD LEADERS. By the Rev. Aug. B. Donaldson, M.A. New York: The Macmillan Co.

PASSAGES IN A WANDERING LIFE. By Thomas Arnold, M.A. London: Edward Arnold.

Alpine accident; Henry Bradshaw, librarian at Cambridge; William Hepworth Thompson, successor to Whewell as master of Trinity; Countts Trotter, vice-master of Trinity; Richard Okes, provost of King's College and vice-chancellor of Cambridge University; and Henry Richards Luard, also a registry of Cambridge University. To these is added an appreciation of the life and work of Richard Owen, the only one of the group not thoroughly identified with Cambridge, from which institution, indeed, he only received an honorary degree. Such work as this, some of it brought forward by way of a review of a biography of the person commemorated and some of it by way of obituary notice following close upon death, lacks the formality and heaviness which attends the preparation of too many memoirs, and may be said to represent at its best that sort of publicly intimate account of a life which does away with the possibilities of such mishaps as befell Carlyle's memory at the hands of Froude.

Of a different nature — since Mr. Clark is concerned with all manner of activities, political, popular, and scientific as well — is the Rev. Mr. Donaldson's "Five Great Oxford Leaders." The five include John Keble, John Henry Newman, Edward Bouverie Pusey, Henry Parry Liddon, and Richard William Church. As is to be expected from so august a list of theologians, the work becomes a personal history of the Oxford movement which brought the Church of England into possession of many long foregone uses and doctrines in the nature of a more Catholic feeling. The book as a whole revolves about its central figure, that of Dr. Pusey, in whose life alone is the detail furnished which brings the others into connection with it, chronologically and in other respects. Here too is that animating spirit of broad comprehension which adds so greatly to the value of Mr. Clark's work. The Rev. Mr. Donaldson is a part of the time he interprets so vividly, and he fairly makes the past, living in the successors of the five men, live in the present with them. In more places than one, the feeling of his pages amounts to tenderness and beautiful affection.

More points of resemblance exist between the two books just discussed than with the third, Mr. Thomas Arnold's "Passages in a Wandering Life"; yet between this last and its predecessors there are more points of resemblance than of difference, and the *dramatis personæ* of the three, so to speak, are much

the same. Mr. Arnold is the second son of Dr. Arnold of Rugby, — his elder brother, Matthew, having been born December 24, 1822, and himself November 30, 1823, and the portrait of the author here used as frontispiece showing a marked personal likeness. But Mr. Arnold became a wanderer on the face of the earth soon after his graduation from University College, Oxford; seeking occupation in New Zealand, where he led a life in the forest remote from civilization for a time; then passing over to Tasmania to become, like his more famous brother, an inspector of schools, a position he soon lost through his union with the Church of Rome; then to Dublin, to accept the chair of literature in the newly founded university there, and to labor under John Henry Newman for six years; then to Oxford to prepare pupils for admission to the university, alternating his residence there with life in Dublin after an appointment as fellow of the Royal University in the Irish capital; and finally, since the death of Mrs. Arnold in 1888, to roam about through Europe at intervals, writing betimes and advancing the cause of his Church.

The book which tells all these things is not so well unified as might be expected, but is often entertaining and never without interest, — whether the author is telling of his experiences at the antipodes, defending his ideas of what a Catholic university ought to be, or enjoying a sly jest at the church of his fathers, as in this anecdote:

"Monckton Milnes was strolling on the beach at Jaffa, when a boat arrived conveying some distinguished strangers. These were the new Evangelico-Anglican bishop Dr. Alexander, who had come to take possession of the see of Jerusalem, and the members of his family. The Greeks on the shore, whose language is the *lingua franca* of debased Italian commonly spoken in Syria, watched the landing with the greatest interest. The shovel hat, correct Episcopal attire, and knee-breeches of the bishop, who was the first to land, impressed them greatly. 'Vescovo! Vescovo!' they cried out in admiration. Mrs. Alexander followed. The Greeks were puzzled, but being informed by some one that this was the bishop's wife, they shouted, but in a lower key, 'Vescova! Vescova!' Finally, four or five children of various ages came up the beach after their mother. Ascertaining who these were also, the Greeks threw up their hands in unbounded astonishment, exclaiming, 'Vescovini! Vescovini!'"

The "Bishop," "Bishopess," and "all the little Bishops" of the story were the more wonderful to the Greeks because of the Episcopate of the Greco-Russian Church being recruited exclusively from the monastic orders.

Mr. Arnold discloses an agreeable personality in his book, and is an acquaintance one feels glad to have made. WALLACE RICE.

THE CLIMAX OF MASPERO'S ORIENTAL HISTORY.\*

The third and last volume of Professor Maspero's great "*Histoire Ancienne des Peuples de l'Orient*" appears in its English dress under the unconventional title of "*The Passing of the Empires*." This, with the two preceding volumes, "*The Dawn of Civilization*" (1894) and "*The Struggle of the Nations*" (1897), give us the most scholarly, the most popular for its compass, the most complete, and the best up-to-date history of the peoples of the ancient Orient yet produced. Professor Maspero's scientific methods, his command of the literature of his subject, and his power of popularization, have made this work of indispensable value both to the history-specialist and to more advanced students and readers of ancient history.

The first two volumes in English dress were provocative of sharp criticism because the author's views of biblical criticism had not been faithfully transferred and represented. The present volume appears not to be subject to such strictures. Indeed, the committee of the English publishing society assumes no responsibility for the positions taken by the author on biblico-critical matters.

This third volume covers a period of over five hundred years, and the years most eventful for the kingdoms of Israel and for the great nations who swayed their sceptre over these kingdoms. This half-millennial period saw the decline and fall of the great civilizations located on the Euphrates and the Tigris in the East, and on the Nile in the West, before the invincible arms of the Greek. This period, too, surpasses all others in the abundance of its available original historical documents, found in the temples, tombs, and mounds of the Orient. The abundance, importance, and scope of these inscriptions, and the readiness with which they yield to the efforts of the translator, have made this section of ancient oriental history peculiarly new and attractive. The continuity of the history and its character, as illustrative of Israel's times and life, present special claims upon the attention of students of biblical lore.

Professor Maspero treats this stretch of time and its body of events in seven comprehensive chapters, as follows: I., *The Assyrian Revival*

and the Struggle for Syria; II., *Tiglath-pileser III. and the Organization of the Assyrian Empire, 745-722 B. C.*; III., *Sargon and Sennacherib (722-681)*; IV., *Esarhaddon and Assurbanipal*; V., *The Medes and the Second Chaldean Empire*; VI., *The Iranian Conquest, and VII., The Last Days of the Old Eastern World*. Each chapter is preceded by an analysis, without, however, any indication of the pagination referred to. This deficiency is somewhat relieved by the fact that the headline of the right-hand page names the theme discussed on that and adjoining pages.

Although not a recognized Assyriologist, the author has fully utilized the valuable material furnished by this department of research. He has scanned the whole horizon of learning within his period of study. The evidence of his wide research, and the proof of the truthfulness of his statements, are found in the fullness of the footnotes, often swollen, though in finer type, to one-third and occasionally to more than one-half of a page. This critical and bibliographical material is the scholar's pride and a precious possession, but it is the disturber of the peace of mind of the conscientious popular reader. A careful examination of several sections of the work reveal the author's wise discrimination in the selection and marshalling of his facts. He has constructed the narrative with due regard to the amount and kind of available material, and has produced in proper proportions an interesting, connected, and lucid history.

Questions of biblical criticism properly receive slight attention. Where they touch the historical narrative, however, somewhat more would be expected. Belshazzar, for instance, is noticed as a son of Nabonidus (p. 635), but the question of his identity with the character in the book of Daniel is passed over in silence. It is evident from the few statements made that the author is progressive in his views, and is not retarded by any immovable prepossession in his interpretation of the facts of biblical and contemporaneous history. The author's comprehensive grasp of his subject, his masterful method of arraying his facts, his transparency of style, and his candor and fairness in argument, will heartily commend the work to the mind of every reader.

The annual output or outcome of excavations in the East is so great that the final word of to-day may be superseded to-morrow. The first two volumes of this great work should be supplemented already by the latest finds in Tello,

\* THE PASSING OF THE EMPIRES, 850 B. C. TO 330 B. C. By G. Maspero, Professor at the College of France. Edited by A. H. Sayce, Professor of Assyriology, Oxford. Translated by M. L. McClure, Member of the Committee of the Egypt Exploration Fund. With maps, three colored plates, and numerous illustrations. New York: D. Appleton & Co.



Susa, Armenia, and Egypt. The last word cannot be spoken until all discoveries cease. Scholars will remember, and all readers will learn, that even this best up-to-date history of the Orient, encyclopædic and authoritative as it is, must be supplemented and modified by subsequent discoveries. The work is profusely illustrated with elegant drawings made by the artists Faucher-Gudin and Boudier, which add greatly to the pleasure and profit of the reader.

IRA M. PRICE.

#### RECENT FICTION.\*

"Among the works of every writer of fiction there are generally one or two that owe their being to some haunting thought, long communed with—a thought which has at last found living shape in some story of deed or passion." These words are placed in the forefront of Mr. Egerton Castle's latest and most ambitious romance, "The Light of Scartney." This book, he goes on to tell us, is his "dream-child," the "one nearer his heart than all the rest." Knowing the charm of Mr. Castle's work, its pathos and its passion, its tenderness and its daring invention, such introductory phrases as these set high our anticipations—we expect all the romantic glamour and full-blooded charm of "Young April" and "The Pride of Jennico," and something more as well, something deeper and more intimate. In this we are not disappointed. Both the setting and the execution of the story are

highly successful in their appeal to the intelligence and the sympathies. The scene is the England of nearly a century ago—more than a century ago at the outset, for the first scenes are placed in the time of the French Terror, and the closing episodes have to do with the events of the Hundred Days. The story is not, however, as one might infer from these facts, concerned other than incidentally with French history. Scartney is on the coast of Lancashire, and the hero is an Englishman, although the heroines—for there are two, mother and daughter—are Frenchwomen. The former, loved by the hero with all the reckless passion of youth, is the victim of a Republican *noyade*; the latter, who comes unexpectedly into his life a score of years later, is equally beloved, with the more restrained but really richer passion of ripened manhood. There is one jarring note in the romance. It is not found in the difficulty of making the love for the daughter appear natural for a man in whom the fires of passion seemed to have been long burned out—this difficulty is triumphantly surmounted. It is found rather in an escapade of the later heroine, for which we are wholly unprepared, and which does not accord with her character as previously revealed. We cannot quite reconcile ourselves to this sudden transformation; it seems like an evil dream rather than a possible actuality. But this one defect does not greatly mar our enjoyment of the book as a whole, which is picturesque in treatment and flushed with color. The characters are firmly and clearly drawn, and their creator has imparted to them the unmistakable breath of life.

Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill's "Savrola" was published as a serial three years ago, and now appears in book form. It is described as "a tale of the Revolution in Laurania," and is a romance of the familiar "Zenda" type. The Republic of Laurania would be difficult to locate upon the map. It is a Mediterranean state, possessing a fleet and colonial interests in South Africa. Its President has ruled as a dictator for several years, and the people are restless. The revolution of which this story tells us is of the social democratic type, and ends with the death of the tyrant, and the union of his beautiful widow with the leader of the revolt. The story is rather dull at first, and its movement slow; but the pace becomes quickened about midway in the volume, and there is no lack of excitement toward the close.

"The Gentleman Pensioner," by Mr. Albert Lee, is a romance of the conventional pattern, filled with heroic emprise and desperate peril. It tells of the period in the reign of Elizabeth when the Catholic plot was ripening, and called for the most energetic measures on the part of the Queen. An important message is entrusted to one of the Queen's servants, to be delivered into the hands of General Hunsdon. Since this message contains the plan of campaign against the conspirators, they seek by every means in their power to gain possession of it before it can

\*THE LIGHT OF SCARTNEY. A Romance. By Egerton Castle. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co.

SAVROLA. A Tale of the Revolution in Laurania. By Winston Spencer Churchill. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

THE GENTLEMAN PENSIONER. A Romance of the Year 1569. By Albert Lee. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

ONE QUEEN TRIUMPHANT. By Frank Mathew. New York: John Lane.

YEMAN FLEETWOOD. By M. E. Francis (Mrs. Francis Blundell). New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

THE ENCHANTER. By U. L. Silberrad. New York: The Macmillan Co.

RESURRECTION. A Novel. By Leo Tolstoy. Translated by Mrs. Louise Maude. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE CROSS. First Half. By Henryk Sienkiewicz. Translated from the Polish by Jeremiah Curtin. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co.

THE POOR PLUTOCRATS. By Maurus Jokai. Translated from the Hungarian by R. Nisbet Bain. New York: Doubleday & McClure Co.

DEATH OF HONOR. By Maurus Jokai. Translated from the Hungarian by Arthur B. Yelland. New York: Doubleday & McClure Co.

THE WHITE TERROR. By Félix Gras. Translated from the Provençal by Catherine A. Janvier. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

SARAGOSSA. A Story of Spanish Valor. By B. Perez Galdos. Translated from the Spanish by Minna Caroline Smith. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co.



be delivered. The adventures of the messenger, and his successful performance of the task committed to him, make up the whole story. The Queen of Scots figures incidentally in the closing chapters, and her removal to a place of safety eventually thwarts the rebellious Catholics. The story is well told, and the author deserves especial praise for knowing when to step in the invention of new perils for the hero, and of other familiar devices for "prolonging the agony" at critical junctures. Few writers of the sort of book in question have ever learned this lesson.

"One Queen Triumphant," by Mr. Frank Mathew, is another romance of the same period, the scene being placed only a few years later, and concerned especially with the Babington plot and the execution of Mary Stuart. The hero is a soldier of fortune, steadfast in his allegiance to Elizabeth, although his loyalty is sorely taxed by his sympathies for the unfortunate Queen of Scots. The heroine is no other than the child of Mary Stuart and Bothwell, supposed to have died in the hour of her birth. But the heroine in this case counts for little, since the rival queens occupy the foreground, and claim most of the interest of the readers. The figures of Burleigh, Walsingham, and Leicester take conspicuous places in the narrative, and illustrate, as well as those of Elizabeth and Mary, the author's really remarkable powers of character delineation. For this romance is far more dramatic than most works of the class to which it belongs; it is concerned with character quite as much as with plot, and mere narrative, so comparatively easy of execution, gives place to animated dialogue, which few writers of historical fiction know how to manage. Very much out of the ordinary is this reconstruction of a fascinating chapter of history, and not more than one book of its sort out of a score achieves a like degree of excellence.

"Yeoman Fleetwood," by Mrs. Francis Blundell, is a novel of English life in the days of the Regency, and has for its hero a prosperous tiller of the soil, possessed of a remarkably simple and upright character. He is, indeed, almost the only person in the narrative who inspires our sympathy, for the remaining characters are representatives of county families, and the distinction of caste between Fleetwood and the others is made the leading motive of the tale. The snobbishness of all the other people concerned makes them very disagreeable, and even the heroine, lovable as she is in most respects, has to struggle with her prejudices for a long time before she can become reconciled to a union with the man who has won her heart. It seems to us that this note of class prejudice is a little forced, even for the times in which the scene is laid, for it is difficult to believe that people of any breeding at all would be capable of the sort of vulgarity which distinguishes most of the characters in their treatment of the hero. The scene in which the heroine, after the clandestine wedding upon

which she has herself insisted, learns that her father is under financial obligations to her husband, and leaps to the conclusion that she has been made in some sort the subject of a bargain, is dramatically conceived, but here again the note seems to us forced. How she flees from her husband, plunges into the artificial society of which Brummel is the exemplar, attracts the insulting admiration of "the first gentleman of Europe," and is rescued from a midnight orgy by the husband whom in her heart of hearts she really loves,—all of these things are effectively recounted, and this turmoil prepares the way for a happy ending.

"The Enchanter," by Miss U. L. Silberrad, is a novel of which the earlier chapters promise more than the later ones perform. It starts out to write the biography of a child of genius—like "Sentimental Tommy" or the hero of "the Ship of Stars"—and as long as this purpose is kept in view, the treatment is successful to the point of fascination. But when the child grows up, his fortunes become mingled with those of the unreal person who is designated by the title of the novel, and who is represented as a hypnotist and a dabbler in occultism. This substitution of charlatanism for psychological interest, this change of appeal from intelligence to morbid curiosity, so weakens the book that the total resulting impression is rather unpleasant, in spite of the marked ability displayed in many ways by this new and promising writer.

Among recent translations of foreign fiction there are a half dozen particularly noteworthy volumes, and the most important of them, all things considered, is Count Tolstoy's "Resurrection," which comes to us in a careful version made by Mrs. Louise Maude. The commanding position occupied in the cosmopolitan world of letters by the author of this book, and the deep sense of our gratitude to him for his great services to the cause of humanity, make the appearance of such a work in the highest degree significant, although even these considerations must not be permitted to blind us to its defects as a production of literary art. We had hoped, indeed, to find in "Resurrection" a worthy successor to "Anna Karénina," a book which might fairly be ranked among the great novels of our time. What we do find is a book which only a man of genius could have written, yet which perversely renounces most of the advantages which genius has over ordinary talent. There are episodes of the most poignant artistic truthfulness, there are characters delineated with a mastery almost absolute; but there are also countless pages of matter having no artistic relevance whatsoever. The judicial processes of a Russian criminal court have their interest, no doubt, but it is not the interest that appeals to a reader of fiction. Neither does such a reader care to become involved in a lengthy argumentative defense of the peculiar doctrines of the late Henry George. Yet these two elements, alien to any properly-planned work of fiction, make up a consid-

erable part of "Resurrection." The story is briefly this: The hero, a Russian nobleman, has in his youth betrayed a young woman of humble rank, a dependent upon his family. When the story opens, ten years have elapsed. She has been driven to a life of shame; he has had the reckless career of the average officer and man of the world. One day he finds himself summoned to serve upon a jury, and there he meets once more the woman whom he has wronged. She is accused of poisoning, and her case is one of those which he is required to consider. She is not guilty, yet she is convicted, partly through her own ignorance of the forms of law, and sentenced to exile. His nature is profoundly stirred by these happenings, for he is now old enough to take a serious view of life, and the predisposition so to do is not lacking. As he reviews his career, his better self is awakened, and this is the "resurrection" to which the title has reference. In making us understand the workings of this man's mind, at this particular juncture, the author displays his highest powers, and gives us a piece of psychological analysis which has rarely been equalled. The upshot of it is that he determines as far as possible to atone for his crime by making the convict his wife and sharing her banishment to Siberia. But he pleads his cause with her in vain, for her soul also is experiencing a sort of "resurrection," and she will not accept what she cannot consider to be other than a sacrifice. He persists, however, in making the journey to Siberia, and in doing what he can to ameliorate her condition. Eventually, his efforts secure a commutation of her sentence, and she marries a fellow-prisoner. (All this constitutes a story of which the author might have made artistic use within the limits of perhaps two hundred pages; in stretching it to five hundred he has made of the book a tract, a study in applied Christianity, rather than a novel.) That it is not absolutely dull and wearisome is the highest tribute we can pay to the author's art. His sincerity is so absolute, his conviction of the faults and follies of the social organization so intense, his belief in the sanctity of human life so impressive in its statement, that he holds our attention in spite of our repudiation of his social ideals and his theories of art. The present translation has been made by a competent hand, and there is no indication that it is not complete. Count Tolstoy uses plain language at times, but the fact that a popular magazine was unwilling to continue the publication of the work for fear of offending the susceptibilities of its constituency affords a striking commentary upon the namby-pambyism of our purveyors of literature for the masses. If the masses received less coddling, and were given more of the strong meat of literature in their favorite miscellanies, there might be some hope of raising the moral tone of our society. No public can be in a healthy frame of mind when its dovecotes are fluttered by such a work as "Resurrection." A few unnecessarily blunt phrases may well be forgiven a

writer who brings so fundamentally inspiring a message to mankind.

Next in importance among these translations is "The Knights of the Cross," the new historical romance by Mr. Henryk Sienkiewicz. Only half of this work is now presented to the English public, and we are told that it is still in process of serial publication in a Polish periodical, but the remaining half is promised for an early date. Mr. Curtin is, as heretofore, the authorized translator. Admirers of the Polish novelist will learn with much satisfaction that he has returned, figuratively speaking, to his own soil and to the historical records of his own people. There are few cases in the literature of fiction in which a racial type has been portrayed with such insight and convincing art as have gone to the portrayal of Polish character in the great romantic trilogy of Mr. Sienkiewicz, and in the almost equally remarkable delineation of modern society given by "The Children of the Soil." These are his real works, and, however such a book as "Quo Vadis" may for the time being appeal to the public, it cannot have the permanent value of such books as "The Deluge" and "Pan Michael." The former is a brilliant exercise of the scholarly imagination; the latter are creations in a very high artistic sense. "The Knights of the Cross" is also a creation in this sense, and, although the story is not thus far sufficiently developed to permit of judgment upon it as a whole, it may at least be said that in matters of detail the old mastery is again exhibited. We have the same strong types of character, the same union of fierce passion and tender sentiment, the same raciness of diction, the same blending of religion with patriotism, and the same fine historical perspective that so enthralled us in the series of romances to which "With Fire and Sword" first introduced us. Of the general setting of the work it suffices to say that it takes us back to the Poland of the fourteenth century, and that the order of Teutonic Knights, then grown corrupt and arrogant, is the foe against whose power the sympathies of the reader are invoked. There is not much fighting as yet, but the conflict is clearly foreshadowed, and we await the second half of the work with confidence that it will bring fulfilment of the vow taken by the hero, and all sorts of destruction for the enemies of the Commonwealth. It is not easy to wait, either, for matters are reaching a very critical point as the present volume closes, and we trust that the suspense will not be of long duration.

Two more volumes have been added to the now considerable number of translations from the most brilliant of Hungarian novelists. "The Poor Plutocrats" is the title of one of them, and Mr. R. Nisbet Bain is the translator. This book is a semi-barbaric romance of the wild Transylvanian region, a nineteenth-century tale which might be fitted into the sixteenth, were it not for certain incongruous accessories borrowed from modern science. We cannot speak very highly of this work from the

standpoint of serious criticism; it is like most of Mr. Jokai's productions in its violation of the most elementary principles of verisimilitude, whether in arrangement of situation or in delineation of character, and the author's determination to be startling at any cost must lose him the suffrages of the discerning, although these may be made up to him ten times over by the applause of those who are satisfied with daring invention and vivid entertainment. The other book by this author is entitled "*Debts of Honor*," and is translated by Mr. Arthur B. Yolland. The translator says that many of the author's countrymen consider the work his masterpiece, but this statement has been made concerning so many of the other romances of Mr. Jokai that our suspicions are aroused. Unless all of his works are masterpieces, we can hardly account for the frequent recurrence of the statement. "*Debts of Honor*" is a story that appeals more directly to the tastes of English-speaking readers than do most of the romances of this writer. The *bizarre* effects and romantic exaggerations which we expect from Mr. Jokai are not lacking in this book, but he places less reliance than usual upon invention, and more upon the delineation of credible characters and upon the portrayal of scenes which have a strong human interest. There are passages in this novel which stir the deeper emotions, and which display an unexpected mastery of the psychological problems involved. The plot is based upon what European novelists who do not know much about America are in the habit of calling "an American duel"—that is, an agreement to decide by lot which of the two opponents shall take his own life within a stated time. In this case, the time is ten years, and the hero is made the victim of a trick. He draws the fatal lot, supposing the arrangement to be made in good faith, and not knowing that his name is written upon both the papers. When the ten years are up, his enemy appears upon the scene, gloating with fiendish malignity over the impending tragedy. Amid highly dramatic circumstances, the trick is exposed just in time to avert the disaster, and the hero learns that his debt of honor has never existed. The character of the hero, of the eccentric relative with whom the ten years are spent, and of the gypsy maiden who loves him, and who saves his life at the sacrifice of her own, are all delineated with skill and penetration. The book has a great deal of subsidiary incident, quaint domestic custom, Hungarian folk-lore, and the like, all of which is subordinated to the main narrative, exhibiting a degree of restraint to which this writer has not accustomed us. On the whole, "*Debts of Honor*" must be accounted one of Mr. Jokai's best books, and we take pleasure in commending it.

"*The White Terror*," by M. Félix Gras, offers the conclusion of the story begun with "*The Reds of the Midi*" and continued with "*The Terror*." Like its predecessors, it is translated from the Provençal original by Mrs. Catharine Janvier. The

fortunes of the little Comtesse, of the group of friends leagued to protect her, and of the villain who seeks to compass her destruction, are all carried out to an artistic, if not a humanly satisfactory ending. At least, it is rather distressing to think that a convent should have proved the only possible refuge for the heroine, and that the hero, on his return from the wars, should have found that her vows had made any earthly union, other than that of souls, impossible for two lovers so faithful in their devotion. But such is the outcome of the whole history, and we must make the best of it. The White Terror, it seems, is the name given to the royalist reaction which, the first fury of the Revolution being spent, took possession of the provinces, and vied with the Revolution itself in its frenzies and its crimes. None of these after-disturbances were more violent than those that took place in and about Avignon, and here the scene of the story is placed. Few writers of fiction have handled this period of French history with the mastery displayed by M. Gras in the remarkable realistic trilogy which is now completed; his knowledge is so intimate, his animation so unbounded, and the net expression of his sympathies so just—accepting the Revolution, despite its excesses, as in some sort a divine event—that he has provided a really remarkable aid to our comprehension of the times concerned, besides telling a story that for mere narrative interest is deserving of cordial praise.

Señor Galdos is best known to American readers as the author of "*Dofia Perfecta*," but in his own country he is famous rather as the historical novelist of the Napoleonic period and the Peninsular War. His "*Saragossa*" is one of a series of many works dealing with this period, and Miss Minna Caroline Smith has done us a real service by translating it into English. While we cannot allow her claim that it deserves to be ranked with "*War and Peace*," or even with "*La Débâcle*," we are bound to admit that it is a fine example of the "dramatic war novel," and that its description of the famous second siege of the Aragon stronghold (1808-9) is both vivid and impressive. The heroic defence of Saragossa against the overwhelming power of the invader is one of the finest things in history, for it revealed the modern Spaniard as an undegenerate descendant of the ancient Numantian. We read in these stirring pages how the fighting was carried on from outwork to outwork, then from section to section of the city, and finally from house to house, or even from room to room. Valor could do no more than was done by the Aragonese in this heroic struggle, and the honors of the siege remained after all with the vanquished. An impassioned love story is interwoven with this web of historical happenings, but its interest is subordinate to that of the main issue of the romance, which makes the fate of any individual seem unimportant in comparison with the tragedy of a whole people.

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.



## BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

*A new book  
on the Old  
Northwest.*

Mr. Charles Moore's "The Northwest Under Three Flags" (Harper) is a valuable contribution to an interesting division of history. It covers the Old Northwest for the period of 161 years, or from 1635 to 1796. It was in 1634 that Nicolet, the intrepid French explorer, discovered and passed through the Straits of Mackinac, making his way to Green Bay and the region beyond, and the next year that he returned to Quebec; and it is not clear why the author should have selected the second rather than the first of these dates for his point of departure. For the other date the best of reasons can be given. That is the year when Great Britain finally relaxed her hold upon the Northwest, surrendering the posts that she had so long held wrongfully, and with them the control of the territory. Although belonging, in law, to the United States since 1783, it was not until 1796 that the Northwest came practically into their possession, and that the last one of the three flags was raised over it as a token of absolute jurisdiction. Mr. Moore's book has many good features. It is marked by conscientious study; in some particulars it corrects earlier errors and adds to our knowledge; while the material is well handled and is presented to the reader in an attractive style. The author's strength lies in his gifts of careful study and pleasant narration. He has a quick eye for the picturesque and romantic features of his subject, and it may safely be said that his story, as a whole, has never been so well told before,—that is, as a story. But when we come to the deeper questions that the story involves, and its more serious meaning, not so much can be said. Several instances can be pointed out where the author has not risen to the height of the argument, but has failed to appreciate, or at least to set forth, the tremendous import of the matters with which he deals. Still, this defect, as the historical scholar will regard it, may be an excellence in the eyes of those readers whom the author apparently has had particularly in view. Probably a majority of readers of history look upon it as narrative, or story-telling; and much can be said for this view of the matter. To those who take this view, if they are interested in the particular subject, this book may be recommended almost without reservation. We wish, however, that Mr. Moore had found a title a little less sensational, and that the publisher had put up the book in a more convenient and attractive form. It is well illustrated.

*A Scottish  
literary shadow.*

Of the life of Thomas Campbell, in the "Famous Scots Series" (imported by Scribner), Mr. J. Cuthbert Hadden has made an amusing book. Perhaps the life of a man of letters is naturally more amusing to people who read a good deal than the life of a soldier or a reformer. Be this as it may, we have here an entertaining sketch. Mr. Hadden had one

point in his favor,—he was not forced to undue admiration of his subject. Campbell's is one of those reputations which may endure for a long time, if it be carefully transmitted in the histories; but hardly otherwise. Mr. Hadden is quite frank in the matter. Of "The Pleasures of Hope" he says: "The poem was at least a credit to his years"; of "Gertrude of Wyoming," that it is "a third-rate poem containing a few first-rate lines." After such frankness, one feels safe. Campbell was a figure in an interesting literary period; he was, indeed, in the eye of contemporaries, one of the chief figures. His life, then, is interesting to anyone who likes literary history. For himself, his genius was apparently not great, nor his character extraordinary. But for a time he occupied a chief place. It must be added that although Mr. Hadden cannot assign to Campbell many literary virtues, he does bring to light or recollection some things about Campbell which are not generally remembered. Thus, he was sincerely and devotedly a friend to Glasgow University, where he had been himself educated; and he was one of the most zealous promoters of London University. There was more unaffected goodheartedness in his active discharge of the duties of Lord Rector, and in his earnest effort to find the best principles of European education, than in all his poetry and hackwork. There were also other non-literary elements in his life more creditable than the literary elements,—his absorption in the cause of Poland, for instance, and his invariable kindness and generosity to relations and others as well. We may thank Mr. Hadden for rounding out the character of Campbell the man; his great poems will probably never be read again, but it will be something of a pleasure to realize that the author of "Hohenlinden" and "Lord Ullin's Daughter" was once something more than the thin literary shadow he has become.

*Wild flowers  
and their insect  
friends and foes.*

What we understand to have been the first publication of the new firm of Messrs. Doubleday, Page & Co. is the very attractive volume entitled "Nature's Garden," by "Neltje Blanchan," whose recent books about birds have deserved and won so large a measure of popular favor. It is, we believe, an open secret that Mrs. Doubleday is the one to whom we are really indebted for these delightful books of popular natural history. "Nature's Garden" is described as "an aid to knowledge of our wild flowers and their insect visitors." The latter part of this phrase shows how the work is differentiated from the other books about wild flowers of which so many have been published during the past few years. The writer explains her purpose when she says: "Inasmuch as science has proved that almost every blossom in the world is everything it is because of its necessity to attract insect friends or to repel its foes . . . it seems fully time that the vitally important and interesting relationship existing between our common wild flowers and their



winged benefactors should be presented in a popular book." The writer has described, with special reference to their fertilization by means of insects, over five hundred species of our wild flowers. The descriptions are pleasantly written, avoiding scientific technicalities, yet not made offensive, as so much of popular scientific writing is, by assuming that the reader has no education worth taking into account. The scientific names, as authorized by the International Botanical Congress, are freely given. The species chosen are arranged according to the colors of their flowers. The chief attraction of the work, however, is provided by its illustrations. These are photographed directly from nature, and upwards of a hundred species are pictured, about half in black and white, the rest in colors. These plates, and especially the colored ones, give the book a unique place among publications of its class, and amply justify its existence. They are beautiful to look at, and are of great practical assistance in the identification of the species which they represent. The book should be found upon the library table of every country house.

*A brief history of Austria.*

In the preface to his "Brief History of Austria" (Putnam), Mr. Sidney Whitman states that two alternatives presented themselves: "either to treat of the principal historical events in proportion to their relative importance, or to give a succinct but unbroken record of the history of Austria as connected with the Imperial House. The former would have been a far more grateful task. On the other hand, the partly didactic character of this series, and the almost incredible fact that no consecutive history of Austria, such as this is, exists in any language, led me to forego the idea." It is to be regretted that Mr. Whitman's ambition made him proof against the temptation to take up "the more grateful task," for the writing of a "succinct but unbroken record" presents such difficulties as to deter any but a most resolute or a most courageous historian. The history of Austria, to a greater degree than that of any other important European state, is to be woven from disjointed facts, impossible of correlation, and defying the best efforts at condensation. The unifying principle which everywhere exists in the history of other states, and serves to cement apparently detached facts, nowhere presents itself in the history of Austria, unless indeed it be the principle of race hatred, the principle of disunion itself. It is not surprising, then, that the result of Mr. Whitman's labors should be disappointing, and that his story of Austria should be lacking in the essentials of a popular instructive history. That really entertaining historical writing is possible with the author, his "Realm of the Habsburgs" and other less ambitious and comprehensive works amply testify. The book is filled with facts, generously illustrated, fairly well indexed, and reasonably accurate. But that the writer has entered into "the real life of the people—as they lived, labored, struggled—as they

studied and wrote,—and as they amused themselves,"—that cannot be said. The story of Austria which shall instruct and entertain, which shall make its people flesh and blood, which shall live as history, has yet to be written.

*Valuable additions to Brook Farm literature.*

The fame of Brook Farm, that New England experiment toward the discovery of a better social life, is rapidly becoming world-wide; yet the list of related books published as an appendix to Mr. Lindsay Swift's volume describing the community (Macmillan) surprises the reader by the number of its titles. Mr. Swift's treatise is the first attempt to gather between a single pair of covers the gist of what is now in print concerning the Rev. George Ripley's courageous attempt to found an actual Utopia. Besides the mere collation of existing material on library shelves, the author has furnished his personal quota of observation and judgment. Holding a position of responsibility in the Boston Public Library, Mr. Swift has had the advantages of bibliographical training and unexcelled literary facilities. He is also geographically near to the hallowed piece of ground in West Roxbury, already gradually becoming enveloped in the halo of tradition. And he has, best of all, a descriptive pen, adapted to keen yet appreciative analysis of the characters who had part in this socialistic drama, the names of some of whom now come for the first time into the full light of public day. An opening chapter upon the rise of the Transcendental movement, admirable in its succinct facts, is followed by a sketch of the organization, resources and occupations of the community itself. Twenty-five of the more prominent scholars, members, and visitors are made the subjects of brief biographical treatment and estimate, while the full index provided enables the reader to find mention of more than as many more Brook Farmers. The last chapter, devoted to the closing period, shows that the decline of the enterprise began with the arrival of Albert Brisbane and Fourierism. All in all, it is safe to say that Mr. Swift's book is the best single volume that has yet been issued upon the subject it treats, valuable alike to the student and the general reader.

*An old-fashioned commonplace book.*

A year and more ago a book was published called "Potpourri from a Surrey Garden," by Mrs. C. W. Earle. It was not widely noticed in the public prints, but it must have reached the attention of those for whom it was designed, for the author very shortly began to get letters from readers who desired more of the same sort. Now appears "More Potpourri from a Surrey Garden" (Macmillan). The book is dedicated to the readers of the earlier volume, but we think it probable that it will reach a wider audience. New readers will like to see the views which old readers had of the earlier volume, and will probably want to read it themselves. The two are among the most curious books that have

appeared for some time. On a foundation of ideas suggested by her garden, Mrs. Earle has built an unconventional structure of domestic opinion and discussion (as about servants, children's health, and receipts for cookery), extracts of poetry and notes of travel, bits of diaries and criticisms on older men of letters. This is a singular combination, and the conception is at least original. It would seem at first as though everybody would like in it what he happened to like, and not much else. There is, however, another matter which the author herself once or twice remarks. The book is a singularly perfect mirror of the life of a cultivated woman living quietly in the country or in some small town, in her parlor and her bookroom, her kitchen and her garden. One place is as proper in its way as another, for each is but a province of her domain. She is not a gardener or a botanist, but a garden lover; not a student of domestic economy, but a housekeeper; not a critic, but a reader. She gives us what appeals to her quite simply, not because it is anything remarkable or especially to her credit, but merely because it has appealed to her. It is not strange, then, that the result should appeal widely to many others.

*An old-time  
hero of the  
U. S. Navy.*

After reading the "Life of Charles Henry Davis, Rear Admiral" (Houghton), as prepared by his son, Captain Charles H. Davis, U. S. N., largely from original letters (and re-reading most of it), it may be confidently stated that no career, of all the many in the American navy which deserve emulation, is better worth following than this. Born in 1807, graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1825, becoming a midshipman in the service at the instance of Commodore Isaac Hull, Davis achieved a lasting scientific reputation for himself as the virtual originator and perpetuator of the "American Nautical Almanac," and by his skilful work on the Coast Survey. These are his contributions to his country's fame as a sailor and a scholar. On the side of the sailor and warrior, his endeavors are not less distinguished. It was Davis who saved William Walker and his fellow-filibusters from death in Nicaragua in 1856; it was Davis who planned the battle of Port Royal for Admiral Du Pont in 1861; and it was Davis who fought and won the battle of Memphis in 1862, clearing the upper Mississippi from the rebels forever. To all this hard and faithful work is to be added a consistent desire to avoid publicity; a feeling that duty was preëminent and self nothing; an ardent love for the Union, too great to permit him to be merely politic; and a culture which makes his letters, even the most casual of them, models of literary excellence. We have heard much, and sometimes sorrowfully, of the scholar in politics: here is the scholar in war, — a quiet, dignified gentleman, whose place is rather in the hearts of his countrymen than in their mouths. As long as America can produce men like Charles Henry Davis, and enough of them, the Republic is secure.

*Practical agitation  
in public affairs.*

Mr. John Jay Chapman's third publication, "Practical Agitation" (Scribner), is a continuation of his "Causes and Consequences" in both matter and manner. Broadly speaking, it is an attack on the almost universal American habit of refraining from saying the "word in season," for fear of hurting someone's feelings. Holding to Judge Robert Grant's postulate that our national life is lacking in honesty because our commercial life also leaves much to be desired in the ethical sense, Mr. Chapman finds a remedy for both evils in the pressure which may be brought to bear upon the offender through his club, his church, and his broader social relations. There is only one political question before the people, in his judgment, and that is the question of *honesty*. So far as Republicans and Democrats are concerned, there is only one machine behind the two parties, and the one object of this compound machine is private profit at the public expense. Party loyalty is merely the blind thrown over the scene of looting in order to lead the voter to think of something else — anything else, if only the machine may machinate. In this regard he holds that very great improvement has been made in a few brief years, so that in New York City itself it has become possible to proceed along straight lines of moral purpose without a thought of temporizing with iniquity or deviating into an alliance with wrong enthroned. From the passing generation of hide-bound partisans Mr. Chapman looks for little help, — indeed, no partisan can read the book without feeling himself a long way behind the age; but great things are expected from the younger folk who decline to wear a collar or be labelled in respect of their political rights and conduct. The book is one to be read and digested in a year of presidential contest.

*A Boer appeal to  
the United States.*

It would be quite as well, in view of "The Story of the Boers" (Harper) now published with the authority of the two South African Republics, to let the Englishmen who are not dazzled by the imperial policy make the argument to their countrymen and cousins across the sea. For, so far as the official documents which conclude the present volume are concerned, they are to be found elsewhere for the most part, while the preliminary papers are not nearly so forceful as the occasion seems to warrant. Mr. Montagu White prefixes an article on "The Policy of Mediation," a plea to the American Government for positive intervention. If we could mediate in the case of Cuba, we can surely do so, so far as principle is concerned, in the case of South Africa; but, as Admiral Mahan has suggested, intervention when Great Britain and her affair is concerned is a very different thing from intervention in the case of a second-rate power — the difference being not at all in the morals of the question, but in the comparative sizes of the British lion and the Spanish wolf. The principal part of the book is taken up with an

article by Mr. C. W. van der Hoogt, in the nature of "A Communication to the American People." It contains little that is new, and it is rambling and discursive. Perhaps the best point raised is in connection with the government of British Guiana, wherein a few British, comparatively speaking, hold many thousands of Dutch deprived of all political rights whatever, through a property qualification which makes the Transvaal's most onerous demand seem light.

*Lamb and Hazlitt.*

Presumably any new information about so genial and engaging a personality as that of Charles Lamb must be acceptable to the host of those who love the man, for his life as well as for his essays; but the new facts which Mr. William Carew Hazlitt reveals in his little volume on "Lamb and Hazlitt" (Dodd, Mead & Co.) are neither of any great importance, nor are they told in such fashion as to stir any very lively interest. The special student will be glad to piece the little revelations of the book into a fuller knowledge of the man, but the general reader will find the volume disjointed and occasionally obscure. The same fault is observable in that part of the book which has to do with Hazlitt. A reader ignorant of the fact that he was divorced from his first wife would hardly know what to make of the chapter dealing with that unfortunate production, the "*Liber Amoris*"; and to those familiar with the circumstances it will seem a little strange that one of the name should dwell at length upon an occurrence so little to the credit of him who gives the name its distinction. But as the book is meant largely for the special student, these criticisms are perhaps captious. It does contain no small amount of interesting matter hitherto unpublished. There is an account of a joke perpetrated upon Hazlitt by Lamb and his friend Joseph Hume, and Lamb's characteristic humor sparkles in the pages of the correspondence which grew out of it. In mechanical execution the book is attractive, with its delightfully wide margins, heavy paper, artistic letterpress, and binding severely simple.

*Folk-lore and magic among the Malays.*

The history of British imperialism points to nothing with pride so great or so just as to the achievements of Englishmen in the Malayan Peninsula. For once, the selfishness of modern markets has been subordinated to measures purely philanthropic, while the impossibility of turning the Moslem natives to some other form of religion has left the civil administrators unhampered by the complications which missionaries generally contrive to interject into the ordinary difficulties. Along with all the other excellences of the resulting system has gone a care for science such as has marked the colonial administration of the French and Germans to a far greater extent than that of the British up to this point. As proof of this may be cited the newly published volume on "Malay Magic" (Macmillan), a most imposing monument to the industry of its author

and compiler, Mr. Walter William Skeat,—not the distinguished Cambridge professor of that name, but a member of the civil service of the Federated Malay States. Profiting by all the labors of many diligent predecessors, and adding to those the results of his own investigations, Mr. Skeat presents an amount of material which must serve as a basis for many scholarly treatises,—the more useful from his habit of recording facts without attempting to account for them. The numerous formulæ and superstitions embodied in this imposing volume are most curious survivals of paganism in a Moslem community, and are destined to early extinction through the spreading of intelligence now going on.

*Child-life studies in many lands.*

Frequently a book is more interesting for the glimpse it gives of the author's character, poise, and view, than for its matter. Mrs. Louise Jordan Miln's "Little Folks of many Lands" (Scribner) is one of that kind. It is written by a woman who says that she has supported herself by work in two professions, and *could* do so again if necessary. Mrs. Miln has been an actor and a newspaper writer; she has travelled; she is independent, bright, sympathetic, and fearless. The book is interesting, but wearies if taken in long sittings. The author loves children, and delights in saying so. It is almost evident that she does *not* love *all* children, though she tries to make herself believe that she does. She describes children of many races and peoples, of varying colors and characters, from all zones. Those children whom she has really seen and known, she describes interestingly; but those whom she knows by reading, or by dim memory, she breaks down on. Thus, her chapters about little Hindus, Ceylonese, and Chinese are charming; but those about the Eskimo, American Indian, and Mexican (*i. e.*, Vera Cruzan) children are tedious. Mrs. Miln has gathered a remarkable collection of child-pictures from all parts of the globe. They are used as illustrations in the book, and are interesting. "Little Folks of Many Lands" will interest and amuse; it will kindle sympathy. It is not good ethnology, but it is suggestive. Anyone with human feeling and a soul, who *knows* other peoples and other lands, will delight in Mrs. Miln's keen but entirely justified thrusts at missionary meddling and foreign education among remote and "lower" peoples.

*Indian songs and musical notation.*

An unassuming but important contribution to the ethnology of our North American Indians comes to us from Messrs. Small, Maynard & Co., in a handsome little volume entitled "Indian Story and Song." The author, Mrs. Alice Fletcher, has long been known as an authority on Indian folk-lore, and her work is characterized by thorough accuracy as well as the sympathy such study demands, and of which it is really the life principle. Some twenty stories or legends are given, with their accompanying songs in musical notation. That the music is of



hardly more than elementary order, is naturally to be expected. But it will be very interesting to the musician, nevertheless, and there is a pathetic quality in much of it which gives unexpected light as to the emotional nature of the Indian. It is Mrs. Fletcher's own belief that in the motives of these songs and stories, simple and naive as they are, will be found themes worthy the attention of the American composer. They were given at the Trans-American Exposition at Omaha in July, 1898, a number of Omaha Indians singing their native melodies to an audience of trained musicians. Thus far only the ethnological journals have had any record of Mrs. Fletcher's long and patient work, and her little volume is a most welcome addition to our native folklore, a matter of increasing interest year by year.

*Secrets of  
the sanctum.*

Before Mr. Rounseville Wildman was appointed consul of the United States at Hong Kong in 1897, he was editor of "The Overland Monthly" in San Francisco. Though he has since been made consul-general in that important post, and in addition to his regular duties has contrived to relieve himself of the responsibility for the American alliance with Aguinaldo, Mr. Wildman's thoughts go back to his journalistic career with evident longing. His experiences, sublimed by time and a somewhat tropical imagination, now appear in a volume entitled "As Talked in the Sanctum" (Lothrop). This is a book wherein the curious in such matters may find disclosed some of the more esoteric features of conducting a magazine. As is usual in such cases, the editor has a number of friends who are perfectly willing to show him how such a periodical ought to be conducted, and the conversations which ensue are directed to that end. These are frequently bright, and often not so bright; but they may serve for instruction when dullest and for entertainment at other times.

#### BRIEFER MENTION.

One of the most charming books that have recently issued from the press is that in which the Century Co. have reproduced Mr. Ernest Seton-Thompson's "Biography of a Grizzly." It is not quite safe to call any writing a classic that is only a year old, but we feel reasonably confident that this piece of sympathetic delineation of animal life will have a longer life than most books. The illustrations by the author, and the decorative designs by his talented wife, present many unusual and even startling effects, but they are unfailingly artistic in their feeling, and no less important than the text in accounting for the attractiveness of the book.

Two new volumes have lately been added to the Columbia University Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law. Volume X. consists of three studies, treating of very diverse subjects, namely, sympathetic strikes and lockouts, the attitude of Rhode Island toward the adoption of the Constitution, and the centralized administration of liquor laws in the United States. Volume XI. is devoted entirely to a statistical

study of the growth of cities during the present century. Of these studies, the most interesting is the one relating to Rhode Island, written by Mr. Frank Greene Bates, now assistant professor of history in Alfred University. A review of the early history of that State shows how persecution had aroused a fierce spirit of independence, and how an apparently well-grounded fear of absorption by the larger and more powerful States impelled resistance to the formation of a stronger federal government.

Professor E. D. Starbuck's work on "The Psychology of Religion" (imported by Scribner) is the first notable attempt on any large scale to study statistically such phenomena as conversion, and to correlate them with other phases of mental evolution. While much that is merely commonplace is the result, yet the work has considerable value and interest as taking a stand against Sidis and others who consider all religious phenomena as abnormal. Professor Starbuck shows with scientific clearness that such a religious manifestation as conversion has its normal place in the mental and physical changes in adolescence, and is a deep-seated social phenomenon. The work is one which ought to be read indiscriminatingly by parents, teachers, and ministers.

"The Poetical Works of John Milton," edited for the Oxford Clarendon Press by the Rev. H. C. Beeching, offers us in a single handsome volume a text carefully reprinted from the earliest published copies of the several poems. This means that the old spelling and punctuation have been preserved, except for the correction of obvious misprints. The editor makes an elaborate defense of this decision, but we are sure that most scholars and general readers will applaud what he has done, and find the defense quite unnecessary. The most interesting feature of the present edition is its reproduction of the "Minor Poems" of 1645, which has never before been reprinted in the original spelling. By way of illustrations we are provided with specimens of Milton's manuscript and with facsimiles of all the original title-pages.

"The Albion Series," to be published by Messrs. Ginn & Co., "will comprise the most important Anglo-Saxon and Middle English poems in editions designed to meet the wants of both the scholar and the student." The initial volume of this series is "The Christ of Cynewulf," edited by Professor Albert S. Cook. Professor Cook has already done a considerable amount of previous work upon this poem, and has made some important discoveries in connection with its sources. The edition consists of an elaborate introduction, a text based upon the standard readings, a large body of notes, and a glossary. It offers an important and substantial contribution to our Old English scholarship.

Mr. James Hay's recent volume on Sir Walter Scott (Barnes) is a brief and very readable account of the great romancer's characteristics as man, author, scholar, advocate, and laird. Little attempt is made at a critical estimate of Scott's writings; and the chief value of the work lies in its biographical details, which are given in a manner to commend the book especially to younger readers.

Dr. Smith's "Smaller History of Rome" (Harper) has done service in preparatory schools for many years, and it is now given a renewed lease of life in the revised edition prepared by Mr. A. H. J. Greenidge of Brasenose College. The maps and many of the illustrations are new, and the text has been made to conform with the results of recent research.

## NOTES.

The "Birds of the Poets," published by Messrs. Brown & Co., is an interesting anthology edited by Miss Lucy F. Sanderson. It includes about a hundred selections, chiefly from American writers.

"The Elements of International Law," by Colonel George B. Davis, has just been issued by the Messrs. Harper in a new and revised edition, making it better fitted than ever for the use of college classes, as well as for the general reader.

"The Classical Mythology of Milton's English Poems," by Dr. Charles Grosvenor Osgood, is volume VIII. in the series of "Yale Studies in English," edited by Professor Albert S. Cook. Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. are the publishers of this series.

The Rev. Arthur Dimock is the author of a handbook to "The Cathedral Church of St. Paul" (Macmillan) published in "Bell's Cathedral Series." The author expresses warm approval of Sir William Richmond's mosaics, and makes contemptuous reference to the artists who have criticised the work.

Mrs. Mabel Loomis Todd's little book on "Total Eclipses of the Sun" (Little, Brown, & Co.), first published six years ago, now appears in a revised edition, with accounts of the eclipses of 1896 and 1898. Interest in the eclipse of the present month should stimulate many persons to read up the literature of the subject, and this work should prove welcome to them.

Dr. George S. Keith is the author of two books of popular advice upon matters of health and hygiene, respectively entitled "Plea for a Simpler Life" and "Fads of an Old Physician." They are now republished, having enjoyed much vogue as separate volumes, bound within the same covers. The Macmillan Co. are American agents for the publication.

"Richard the Third up to Shakespeare," by Dr. George B. Churchill of Amherst College, is a monograph which comes to us from Messrs. Mayer & Müller, Berlin. It constitutes Volume Ten in the series entitled "Palæstra," which consists of "Untersuchungen und Texte aus der Deutschen und Englischen Philologie," under the general editorship of Professors Alois Brandl and Erich Schmidt. It is written in English, and is a portly volume of between five and six hundred pages.

"A Cumulative Index to the Books of 1898-99," compiled by Mr. M. E. Potter, and published by Mr. H. W. Wilson, Minneapolis, is a volume of over six hundred double-columned pages, and comprises under a single alphabet author, subject, and title references to the American publications of two years. About seventeen thousand books are catalogued, and the usefulness of the work to booksellers and librarians does not need to be set forth.

The American School of Classical Studies in Rome has issued its circular for the year 1900-1901. The school will be in charge of Mr. Richard Norton (being his fourth year of service), and Professor F. W. Kelsey will also be in residence, and give courses of instruction. Professor Elmer T. Merrill, Middletown, Conn., is at present in executive charge of the affairs of the School in this country, and will be glad to answer any inquiries that may be made of him.

The last publication of the London Bibliographical Society is a quarto pamphlet containing a most useful "List of English Plays Written before 1643 and Printed

before 1700." It is the work of Mr. W. W. Greg, of Trinity College, Cambridge. The plan of the handlist arranges the plays under the authors' names in alphabetical order; then under each playwright the collected editions are given first, followed by the editions of separate plays in chronological order of the first dated editions. Anonymous plays are listed at the end. It is a great help to accurate studies to find the titles given in full, with the printer's name, the date, and the place of present possession. And in order to make the bibliography of the great drama complete, Mr. Greg has wisely included all the works of authors who are known to have written plays, whether extant or not, up to the closing of the theatres in 1642. Comparing this handlist of English plays with Halliwell's antiquated "Dictionary of Old Plays," and the wheat and chaff of Fleay's valuable but exasperating "Chronicle of the English Drama," Mr. Greg's work is a distinct advance in bibliographical scholarship. It is admirably simple, concise, and businesslike, and withal modest. Not to look a gift horse too closely in the mouth, one might suggest that the list would be more useful if some device had been adopted to make the titles stand out more clearly. Dates in the left-hand margin would arrest the eye, or a different type, especially for first editions. At all events non-extant plays should have been printed in smaller type. So, also, the two indexes, of authors and of plays, would work better if paged. As it is, one must know the author's name to be able to find any particular play. Plays in manuscript, masques, pageants, and triumphs, and what are called, rather loosely, "unclassable productions," are purposely omitted with a view to a separate publication. The fact that Day's "Parliament of Bees" and Heywood's pastoral "Amphrissa" are classed as "unclassable," suggests vague gaps on closer study of Mr. Greg's list. A complete bibliography of the Elizabethan drama upon Mr. Greg's plan would be a desideratum: Mr. Greg could easily produce it by combining this first handlist with the one he promises.

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

[The following list, containing 170 titles, includes books received by THE DIAL since its last issue.]

## GENERAL LITERATURE.

- Rudyard Kipling: A Criticism. By Richard Le Gallienne; with a Bibliography by John Lane. With portrait, 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 200. John Lane. \$1.25.
- George Meredith: Some Characteristics. By Richard Le Gallienne; with a Bibliography by John Lane. With portrait, 12mo, uncut, pp. 300. John Lane. \$1.50.
- A Concordance to FitzGerald's Translation of the Rubāiyāt of Omar Khayyām. By J. R. Tatin. 8vo, uncut, pp. 169. Macmillan Co. \$3. net.
- The Evolution of the English Novel. By Francis Hovey Stoddard. 12mo, uncut, pp. 235. Macmillan Co. \$1.50.
- Notes on the Bacon-Shakespeare Question. By Charles Allen. 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 306. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson. By Edward Everett Hale. Together with two early essays of Emerson. 16mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 135. Boston: Brown & Co. \$1.
- The Classical Mythology of Milton's English Poems. By Charles Grosvenor Osgood, Ph.D. 8vo, pp. 113. "Yale Studies in English." Henry Holt & Co. Paper, \$1.
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